



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

LABOR OLINIA VINCIIT

Organized Labor Leads the State of Maine to Victory in the Battle for Direct Primaries.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Governor Plaisted of Maine, in an address delivered at Lewiston on September 4 said: "Organized labor has given to the State of Maine her Australian Ballot law, organized labor has given to the State of Maine her initiative and referendum, and on September 12 organized labor will give to the State of Maine a primary election law."

The words of the governor were a historic declaration and proved prophetic, for, on September 12 the citizens of Maine, led by organized labor, declared for direct primaries by a vote of 55,840 to 17,751.

In 1891 the battle for the establishment of the Australian ballot system was begun by organized labor. It ended in a partial victory which was made complete in 1893 by the establishment of the present law. Organized labor was not recognized as a political power then and the number of its adherents was not great, but they had the moral courage and the tenacity that enables men to surmount great barriers and they gained the day.

In 1908 organized labor, represented by the Maine Federation of Labor began the memorable struggle for the initiative and the referendum. Resolutions had been passed at the convention of the State Body declaring for the system and they were followed by a campaign that will never be forgotten in Maine. The support of the State Grange was asked and given and every nook and corner of the state was canvassed. The American Federation of Labor was requested to send representatives into the state and did so. The foes of organized labor and of progress became perniciously active. Barrels of money were used, and wagon loads of literature were scattered all over the state denouncing the system. Daily newspapers published columns of adverse criticisms and political orators came from different parts of the country, and made fervid appeals to the voters to defeat the proposition at the ballot box.

When the smoke of battle cleared away it was found that organized labor and her allies had won a great victory. The people by an overwhelming majority had declared in favor of the initiative and referendum.

The Maine Federation of Labor has won the confidence of the citizens of the state and is now making preparations to initiate other beneficent reforms.

TO EXTEND GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

Parliament of New Zealand Decides to Establish Electric Power Works and Develop Water Power.

Washington, Sept. 16.—According to the Daily Consular and Trades Reports issued by the Bureau of Manufactures, Department of Commerce and Labor, the Government of New Zealand is preparing for the utilization of the water power of the country. The report for Tuesday, September 12 says: "Development of the water-power resources of New Zealand will probably be initiated soon. At the last session of the parliament the Minister of Finance was empowered to raise \$2,433,250 for the establishment of electric power works and the utilization of water power.

"The rather slow utilization of water power in a country where it is so plentiful is due chiefly to popular objection to private exploitation, and the desire that all water power shall be owned, controlled and developed by the government itself. The Dominion Government and also the various municipal bodies that might undertake such development have, perhaps, been more cautious in assuming the financial risks involved than private companies would have been; consequently, until the action of the Dominion Parliament last year in making provisions for the expenditure of \$2,433,250, little serious action has been taken, except as to the surveying of popular sites.

"It is estimated that within five years' time there will be 4,200 electric stoves and heaters used in Wellington, 3,200 in Auckland, 3,100 in Christchurch, and 3,200 in Dunedin."

The report states that the introduction of electric stoves and heaters will be a boon to the working classes as the present outlay in chimneys in the Dominion is probably \$19,466,000, and is being added to at the rate of \$243,325 per annum. Most of this comes out of the pockets of the working classes. With the introduction of the electric stove and heater chimneys will of course be unnecessary.

Working people in the United States would gladly welcome the introduction of the electric stove and heater under similar circumstances.

MUSICIANS WIN STRIKE

Washington, Sept. 16.—Because members of the Musicians' Union in Chicago desired better conditions and an increased wage scale, the theatrical managers decided to get along without orchestras. Church chimes and other musical novelties were substituted, but their introduction did not improve the productions by any means. After a painful experience the managers decided that orchestras must be restored and yielded to the demands of the union.

As a result it has been agreed that hereafter each leading theatre would employ a minimum of eleven musicians, besides the leader, and that each would receive \$27 a week, instead of \$21, and the leader \$60 instead of \$35.

GOMPERS TALKS WITH MCNAMARAS

Washington, Sept. 16.—The McNamara brothers saw and talked with President Gompers of the A. F. of L. on September 11. Accompanied by Clarence Darrow and Joseph Scott, attorneys for the McNamaras, the labor chief called at the county jail and held a conference with the imprisoned men.

The Judiciary as Well as the Legislatures and Executives Must Minister to the People.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Under the caption "The Alternative to Popular Control of the Judiciary" the Boston Common says: "Democracy is either a figure of speech or a great truth. Those who would have judges exempt from democratic control cannot believe profoundly in democracy's intrinsic worth.

"The democratic theory of government assumes that a free and intelligent people, who are self-governing, will quickly perceive and correct their own mistakes. History shows that when they really have been self-governing, when their will has not been frustrated or obstructed by special interests or privileged groups, this assumption has proved well founded.

"Opponents of the election and recall of judges say that the people must be safeguarded against themselves; that the people are prone to frenzy and need checks and keepers. But is any restraint so good as self-restraint? Is it not the best way to develop self-restraint to let it grow with practice?

"A people who find that recalling a just judge for bravely doing his duty does not promote their welfare will learn not to use the recall on that kind of judge, but to reserve it for judges who usurp authority, toady to privilege or otherwise betray the common weal. Who is wiser than the common wisdom?

"There is no way by which the people can permanently be kept from auditing the services of judges. In this country they are the source of power. They make constitutions. There is among them the determination, firm and as we believe growing, that the judiciary, as well as the legislatures and executives, shall minister to their welfare. They will not be content to elect lawmakers and law enforcers pledged to certain policies only to have those policies defeated by judicial construction.

"The alternative to popular control of judges is not the status quo; it is revolution."

MAY CALL GENERAL STRIKE

Washington, Sept. 16.—At the annual conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, which will be held at Southport in the first week of October, the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation will present a resolution demanding the establishment of a minimum wage scale for miners. The resolution will also call for a general strike to enforce the demands, if necessary. The Lancashire and Cheshire Coal fields employ over 100,000 miners.

ENGLISH EIGHT HOUR MOVEMENT

London, Eng., Sept. 16.—The executive committee of the 18 federated unions governing the ship building trades, have approved the movement for an eight hour day. It is said the matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the federated executives and that the outcome of this meeting will be the almost unanimous backing of the demand for an eight hour day.

A similar agitation is reported in the steel trade. The members of the British Steel Smelters' Union have voted largely in favor of a move for the 8 hour day, and the officials of the union have asked for a conference with the employers to discuss the demand.

WOMEN ARE VICTORS

Five Hundred Dress Makers Battle for Four Weeks, Gain Increased Wage Scale and Shorter Hours.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Facing determined opposition, and fighting without a murmur, 500 women in Brownsville have gained a signal victory over their employers. The employers were banded together by a strong organization and laughed at and treated with derision the demands of the women for a higher wage scale and a shorter work day. The women too were members of an organization, local No. 2 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and when the battle ended their union was intact, while the association of the employers was shattered to pieces.

Four weeks the struggle for better conditions waged, and the workers showed a spirit of determination that discouraged the employers to such an extent that some of them deserted their organization and made terms with their employes. Still the employers made great efforts to line up and continue the battle, but the workers kept on with a grim determination and one by one the manufacturers dropped out of the association until it became too weak to offer further resistance. When the final surrender came the employers were without an organization, and the labor organization had compelled them to concede every demand made by its members.

In Brownsville the ladies' tailors and dressmakers will now work fifty instead of fifty-four hours a week. Their wages will be increased 10 per cent and the Employeis have learned that the demands of women, protected by a labor organization, must be taken seriously and treated with respect. The International Union rendered valuable assistance in the fight for better conditions.

PENSIONS FOR POSTAL CLERKS

Washington, Sept. 16.—Postmaster General Hitchcock has announced his determination to make an appeal to Congress for the establishment of a pension system that will provide for men and women who have been in the postal service for years and have grown old in the service.

The desire of the Postmaster General to provide for aged post office employes has received stimulus by the dismissal of Daniel Rooney and Andrew Hyde by Postmaster Morgan of New York. Both had served for many years in the New York City Postoffice and were dismissed sometime ago by the postmaster because he became convinced that their age impaired their future usefulness.

WILL BE TRIED IN LOS ANGELES

Washington, Sept. 16.—Judge Bordwell, before whom John J. and James B. McNamara will be tried on October 11, has ruled that the trial must be held in Los Angeles, and not at Indianapolis where John J. McNamara was kidnapped from by Burns' detectives.

The bill of exceptions filed by counsel for the McNamara brothers questioned the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, but the court held it had jurisdiction.

Carpenters at Asheville, N. C. have been successful in their campaign for higher wages and have secured an increase of 25 cents a day.

Hodcarriers at St. Cloud, Minn. have secured an increase of 25 cents a day.

Great Throng of Workers Hear President Gompers in Portland, Oregon, and Greet Him with Cheers.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The following excerpt from the Portland, Ore. Daily Journal is one of the many tributes paid the labor chief on the Pacific Coast:

"The crowd last night was as remarkable as the man who addressed it. It was a great perisperm throng that hung on every word of their leader, responsive to his every thought. The applause that greeted the great man of labor was renewed when he arose to speak. It showed how working people place Gompers in the highest of high places.

"The sentences of the labor leader when he began to speak were halting. Aroused by the fire of his own utterances, his voice lifted to a higher and more penetrating note; his utterances became rapid. Without complaint or thought of it the people listened for two hours, not even trying to fan their heated faces.

"Gompers told the working people that if the law is made to operate to send him to jail he will go, and so will his associates. 'We will not run away - I wasn't made for running purposes', he declared.

"The strike," he said, "is not a force to be carelessly used. Often the strike is an obstruction to the forward movement of unionism. We are opposed to strikes except when strikes cannot be avoided without degradation and humiliation. Then, I say, strike and strike hard."

"Came then a bit of philosophy. 'Unionism', said Gompers, 'recognizes as truth that we are our brother's keeper, and that we should bear each other's burdens, for in so doing our burdens are made lighter. We also have this commandment: Thou shalt not take thy neighbor's job.'

"The injunction as now used abrogates a right guaranteed by the constitution, a right only before abrogated in time of war, but now used to protect a stove or a hat.

"The decision of the Supreme Court, for instance, in the Standard Oil Case, said to the trusts 'You must not rob the people any more in the same old way. You must do it reasonably. And meantime we will give you six months more to rob them in the same old way.'

"Workingmen and women, this is tyranny from within, the tyranny that once burned its victims at the stake and now jails them. It is a tyranny that denies the right to protest, the right to strike; that uses a pliant judge to clothe tyranny in the form of law. This is a tyranny, these are elements, that endanger the success of our republic.

"Were I not an optimist I should doubt the perpetuity of our republic under such conditions. But with the strength of our unionism, our schools and such a form of government as the Oregon system, the men and the women of our time know their rights and dare to assert them at any risk. The men and women of labor look the whole world in the face, demanding equality of opportunity that is their due."

MARCOLOTH LOAVES

Washington, Sept. 16.—A loaf of bread 16 feet long, said to be the largest one ever baked, was a feature in Pittsburg's labor Day Parade. It was the handiwork of members of Local No. 12 of the Bakers' Union and was carried by six of the members. Local No. 44 of the same union exhibited an equally big loaf. It weighed 200 pounds and was drawn in a wagon by a pony. Both loaves were decorated with the union label.

WHAT THE TRUSTS HAVE DONE

A Comparison of the Cost of Living During War Times and the Reign of the Trusts.

Washington, Sept. 16.—When the great Civil War was raging and thousands of men were engaged in the mighty conflict; when the shop, the mill, the mine and the fields were depopulated to such an extent that laborers were few, the prices of the commodities of life increased. Today we are at peace, the machinery in the shop and mill is tended by thousands of willing workers, the miner digs industriously and skilled husbandmen are tilling the soil and gathering abundant harvests. Nevertheless, the prices of the products of the shop, the mill, the mine and the field are scaring. The following table of prices is taken from the Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va. The war time prices are from the Index-Appeal, a reliable authority on the Civil War:

War Time.	Article.	Now.
\$4.10	flour	\$7.75
14 cents a pound	Pork	12-20¢ a pound.
34¢ a pound	Hams	20-28¢ a pound.
8-12¢ a pound	Lard	12½¢ a pound.
15-20¢ a pound	Butter	30-35¢ a pound.
14¢ a pound	Cheese	35¢ a pound.
10-18¢ a pound	Sugar	62-7¢ a pound.
30-35¢ a gal.	Molasses	32-38¢ a gal.
6½¢ a pound	Beef	15¢ a pound.
5¢ a pound	Shoulders	20¢ a pound.
13-16¢ a pound	Coffee	25-40¢ a pound.

The trusts are responsible for the prices now, and the same trusts are giving battle to the unions in their effort to increase wages.

UNION GAINS IN BRITAIN

Washington, Sept. 16.—As a result of the recent strikes in Britain, thousands of new members have been gained by the unions. Harry Gosling, the representative of the London Transport Workers, has issued a statement to the effect that 85,000 workers have joined the respective unions connected with the Federation in that city. He also states that advances in wages of from 10 to 33 per cent have been secured by carmen, teamen, dockers, coal porters, etc., and that the hours of labor were reduced by from 8 to 25 per cent:

At Liverpool more than 25,000 new members were gained by the Transport Workers Associations and wages have been increased 20 per cent. At Hull, Glasgow, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea and Newport similar triumphant results have been obtained.

GETTING WISE

Washington, Sept. 16.—The effort of Canadian employers to destroy the labor movement by instilling national prejudice into the minds of the workers, has failed. The Vancouver World is authority for the statement that "The few straggling locals masquerading under the title of the Canadian Federation of Labor, and better known to international unionists as the "nationalists", are gradually dropping their affiliation with the per capita tax dodgers, and lining up with the wide-world trade organizations of the working class. There isn't enough of them to hold a funeral this year, let alone a convention."

WILL NOT ADOPT TAYLOR SYSTEM

Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop Says Scientific Management Will Not be Installed.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The action of the members of labor organizations, employed in navy yards, in resolving to resist the introduction of the Taylor system, has brought forth a statement from Acting Secretary of the Navy Winthrop to the effect that there has been no attempt made to introduce the system, and that it is not likely to be adopted for naval uses. He admits that a board of naval officers has been for several months studying navy-yard methods with a view to their improvement along other lines.

Representatives of the I. A. of M. however are determined to be prepared for action should it become necessary, and a conference of workmen to devise plans to oppose the scientific system of shop management has been called and will be held in Rock Island, Ill. beginning September 19. Officers of the organization and delegates from various machinists' lodges composed of navy yard and arsenal workers will attend the conference.

The convention of the International Association of Machinists will open in Davenport, Iowa on Monday, Sept. 18, and the result of the conference will be submitted to the delegates for their approval.

A UNION BUILT BATTLESHIP

Washington, Sept. 16.—Work on Uncle Sam's greatest and latest dreadnought, the battleship New York, has been begun. The vessel will be built in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and will, when completed, be another tribute to the skill of organized labor.

The plan to build the dreadnought in a government yard has met with considerable opposition. It was asserted that the vessel could not be built on the original amount appropriated for that purpose on account of the 8 hour day in operation in government plants. The appropriation was increased however and the battleship will be built by the government.

Before work was begun it was found necessary to take off a piece of a corner of a building, in order that the ways might be lengthened.

ATTEMPT TO NULLIFY PRISON LABOR LAW

Washington, Sept. 16.—The case of the Hoge-Montgomery Co. vs. Charles L. Daugherty as commissioner of labor was heard by Judge Cotterel of the U. S. Circuit Court last week. This case involves the constitutionality of the Oklahoma statute, passed two years ago, requiring that all convict made goods be branded or marked before being offered for sale in the state.

The Commissioner of Labor notified all dealers of the provisions of the statute and warned them that prosecutions would follow in cases of violation.

The Hoge-Montgomery Mfg. Co. which manufactures shoes in the Kentucky penitentiary at Frankfort, having a contract for the labor of about 800 convicts, thereupon prayed for an injunction to restrain the commissioner from proceeding with the enforcement of the law, on the ground that the statute was an infringement on the jurisdiction of the of the national government over interstate commerce. The argument before Judge Cotterel was on a motion to make the injunction permanent.

Dishonorable Employers at Muscatine, Ia. Have Violated Agreement, and Shops Are Closed.

Washington, Sept. 16.--Men, woman and children, employed in the button factories in Muscatine, Ia., are again engaged in a battle for the life of their union. The employers have violated the agreement entered into with the labor organization, and the members of the Button Workers' Protective Union are determined not to return to work until the terms of the contract are strictly observed.

The struggle of the button workers has been a memorable one. Compelled to work under conditions that shorten life, their lot has been made harder by the exactions of the employers, who have robbed them through counting and weighing methods, and have heaped all kinds of indignities on the women who were compelled to seek employment in the plants.

In October 1910, they organized a union, hoping through this medium to find redress for their many wrongs. On February 25, 1911, the employers closed every plant in the city, and made a proposition to the workers that they would be re-opened if they would drop their union connections and agree to have no further dealings with labor organizations.

The button makers refused to accept the proposition and when the shops were opened on March 20, kept away from them. A picket line was established; special police appeared on the scene and the pickets were forbidden to speak to anyone looking for employment. The strikers remained firm and the employers failed to secure workers to take their places. The manufacturers called upon the governor for the services of the militia, and failing, imported thugs, armed with automatic guns and blackjacks who assaulted all who dared to go near the plants. Riots ensued, the governor sent the militia, and every shop was guarded at the point of the bayonet.

Still the strikers stood firm and Governor Carroll came to Muscatine and brought about a settlement that gave the workers the right to see their product weighed, providing for the posting of schedules in every shop, and for the protection of the workers against discrimination.

Under the provisions of this agreement work was resumed on May 4, but in a few days the employers began to violate every clause of it.

On August 21, the button makers, driven to desperation, declared a strike at one of the plants, and 900 were locked out by other employers. Those still at work agreed to pay five per cent of their earnings for the support of those on strike and locked out, and the employers immediately retaliated by reducing the working days to four a week in the shops still in operation.

The plants are again surrounded by regular and special police. Girl pickets are being arrested and hurried before a police judge, who refuses a trial by jury, and another call has been sent to Governor Carroll for the services of the militia.

Men and Women are still on the picket line and all the efforts of the authorities and the employers have failed to break the spirit of the strikers, who are determined to keep up the conflict until their rights are recognized.

WAGES INCREASED IN IRELAND

Belfast, Ire., Sept. 16.--Twenty-five hundred woodworkers employed in the shipyards at Belfast have secured an increase in wages. They also received a guarantee that there would be no reduction in the rate of wages for 5 years.

A CHEERING PROPHECY

Distinguished Attorney Believes Organized Labor Will Win Great International Victory.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Samuel Untermyer, the distinguished lawyer, who has recently been in Paris in connection with French counsel pending international litigation, predicts a great international victory for labor over capital.

Mr. Untermyer has taken a great interest in the recent strikes in Britain and has this to say: "I regard the outcome of this struggle as a foregone conclusion. The settlement will finally and indefinitely be in favor of organized labor. This is as it should be, and it will come to pass within the twelvemonth.

"The real issue is the same in both England and America - the recognition of the labor union and the insistence that organized capital shall deal directly with the representatives of organized labor. The latter has made greater headway in England than in the United States, but in both countries the cause of labor is unfairly treated and is misrepresented by the bulk of the metropolitan press.

"Unorganized the men are hopeless and the struggle is grotesquely unequal. The demands of the laboring men may be at times unreasonable, but not nearly so much so as has been the oppression of capital in the past, and not to be compared with what would be the hopelessness of their situation were it not for the protection they get by reason of their organizations."

NEW OFFICERS

Washington, Sept. 16.—President McArdle of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, who is now doing service as a Pittsburg Councilman, has resigned, and Secretary-Treasurer John Williams has been appointed as his successor. Assistant Secretary Tighe has been appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. McArdle was elected in 1905 and the esteem in which he has been held is shown by the following resolutions passed by the national officers of the organization:

"Resolved, That we, the national lodge officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, in accepting the resignation of our national president, P. J. McArdle, do so with feelings of extreme reluctance and regret, but feel that while our association loses an efficient, capable, honest and conscientious official, the city of Pittsburg will be the gainer by our loss, And be it further

"Resolved, That we hereby commend to the citizens of Pittsburg our retiring president, P. J. McArdle, as a man of the most exemplary character, combining all the qualifications of citizenship necessary to perform any and all the functions of the office for which he has been chosen."

TOILERS NEED NOT APPLY

Washington, Sept. 16.—Another philanthropy has blown up. Forest Hill Garden, the Utopian Village now nearing completion by the Russell Sage Foundation, will not be an abiding place for poor toilers. The trustees have decided so. The Scriptural saying: To him that hath shall be given, holds true in this case.

In Every Part of the Land Men of All Trades and Callings are Organizing for Protection.

Washington, Sept. 16.—With a steady tread, the un-organized workers of the land, are marching to join the army of organized labor. Since the last report the following new unions have been organized: Ashville, Tenn., Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Building Trades Council. Middleport, O., International Association of Car Workers, Laborers Protective Union, Machinists Helpers' Union, Muskogee, Okla., Trades & Labor Council. Shawnee, Okla., International Union of Steam Engineers. Memphis, Tenn., Federal Labor Union. Paris, Tex., Plumbers, Gas Fitters & Steam Fitters' Union, International Association of Retail Clerks, International Printing Pressmen's Union, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders. Spokane, Washington, Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America. Parkersburg, W. Va., Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen & Helpers, American Brotherhood of Cement Workers. Fond Du Lac, Wis., Bar Tenders International League of America. Galt, Ont., International Hod Carriers and Building Laborers' Union of America. Guelph, Ont., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Hamilton, Ont., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers. Lethbridge, Alberta, Journeymen Tailors' Union of America. Moncton, N. B., International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen & Helpers. Niagara Falls, Ont., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Meadville, Pa., American Brotherhood of Cement Workers. Sacramento, Cal., Laborers' Protective Union. East St. Louis, Ill., Steam Fitters' Union. Wheaton, Ill., International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Joliet, Ill., Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, Retail Clerks International Protective Association. Streator, Ill., International Hod Carriers & Building Laborers' Union of America. Springfield, Ill., International Brotherhood of Bookbinders. Pontiac, Mich., International Union of the United Brewery Workmen, International Molders Union of North America, International Carriage & Wagon Workers' Union.

NEWSBOYS ON STRIKE IN LIVERPOOL

Liverpool, Eng., Sept. 16.—Hundreds of newsboys in Liverpool went on strike demanding an increase of 2 cents on each dozen of half-penny papers they sell. They have been receiving 4 cents on each dozen and are determined to be in line with the other workers who have secured increases recently.

ANOTHER INCREASE IN WAGES

Washington, Sept. 16.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers is steadily advancing and increases in wages are the order of the day. The wages of the operators employed by the Denver & Rio Grande railroad have just been increased by from 5 to 10 per cent.

DEMAND HIGHER WAGES

Vienna, Aus., Sept. 16.—Five hundred delegates, representing all the railway men's societies have decided that a demand for a twenty per cent increase in wages shall be made to the government. The high cost of living, it was declared, made the increase necessary.